

In front Port Hudson June 8th 1863

December, WEDNESDAY 23, 1863.

Dear Mother
I can't tell whether my last reached you or not for it went by a letter from Springfield Landing. I am very short of time & paper as you may see. I am acting aid to Gen. H. E. Paine - The fighting men of this Dept. have been with him nearly a week & have been working like fools, for he will spare his officers I tell you. Returned this morning from an expedition to Clinton where we went to catch the rebels who drove Col. Greisson into ambush last week.

They skedaddled on the double quick so we had no fight, but it was a dreadful march & we lost some 200 men by sun strokes. Thermometer at 98° all the time & marched from 10 to 18 miles per day. We burned Clinton & it was a sight well worth seeing to watch the Cavalry carrying off every blessed thing they could lay their hands on. If I had not been too honest I might have made a gold watch & chain - as it was a Lieut of the 6th Illinois gobbled them.

I have bought a jolly little horse from Capt. Mack & not having the cash gave my note upon father for the amt -

It was when we expected to attack Port Hudson the next day & I wished to secure the Capt. against loss in case of accident. I will cancel it myself when I return to New Orleans.

I have been under fire of the

December, THURSDAY 24, 1863.

sharpshooters several times while
carrying orders & one ball broke my
spine, a little bit & jacked my foot &
leg - rather. Have not been hurt
I am quite well - please don't worry
about me for I shall do nicely every
way down here. Am bound to see the
end of Fort Hudson & it won't be a week
before we are inside. We could storm
the place tonight if necessary I believe
& the soldiers are all discouraged because
nothing is done. Am with very pleasant
officers. Had a long talk with Col. Kearney
& Lt. Col. - about Hingham re last night.
Please send me a lot of Handkerchiefs
I have lost & this trip - I don't care about
them being knives! Please let
Mrs. Palastin know when I am if you
can. Have had no letters from home for
several weeks but hope for a lot when
I get back to N. O. & recieve the 2nd
Sept. which I may do for a few weeks.
Will write again when I can but
it may be a week or two first. Give
best love to Father, Grandmother & the
boys - and to friends who may care to know
my whereabouts. When I do write
you shall have a letter what am a
letter - I have seen more & ten times
more than last 2 weeks than ever be-
fore I believe.

Your ever loving son

Applinton